

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 6 - 8, 14 - 19, 22 and 23 is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, the claims under rejection, i.e., claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 26 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof such that the rejection of claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent # 6,573,882 (Takebayashi) has been obviated. It is noted that while the Examiner at pages 5 and 6 of the office action refers to claims 26 and 27, no statement of a rejection of such claims under 35 USC 103 appears. In any event, by the cancellation of claims 26 and 27 in addition to the cancellation of claims 4, 5, 12 and 13, any such rejection has been obviated.

Since only allowed claims 6 - 8, 14 - 19, 22 and 23 remain in this application, applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.40285X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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